



County of Los Angeles  
**CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

713 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION • LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012  
(213) 974-1101  
<http://cao.co.la.ca.us>

DAVID E. JANSSEN  
Chief Administrative Officer

Board of Supervisors  
GLORIA MOLINA  
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE  
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY  
Third District

DON KNABE  
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH  
Fifth District

July 28, 2006

To: Mayor Michael D. Antonovich  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Don Knabe

From: David E. Janssen  
Chief Administrative Officer

**WASHINGTON, D.C. UPDATE**

**Water Resources Development Act Reauthorization**

On July 19, 2006, the Senate passed its version of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2006 (H.R. 2864), which would reauthorize Army Corps of Engineers water resources projects and programs. The Senate bill includes an authorization for the Corps to conduct a study for bank stabilization and shore protection for the Nicholas Canyon Bluffs project that was requested by the County's Department of Beaches and Harbors. The Senate bill does not include studies of improvements of the Ballona Lagoon Tide Gates and Dockweiler Bluffs that were authorized in the House version passed on July 14, 2005. Congress last enacted legislation to reauthorize WRDA in 2000. Conferees have not yet been named to reconcile the differences between the Senate and House bills.

Of County interest, the Senate bill includes a \$12 million authorization, subject to available appropriations, for the Corps to conduct a feasibility study in coordination with the City of Los Angeles, to revitalize the Los Angeles River, as requested by Senator Boxer. The feasibility study would explore opportunities for environmental ecosystem restoration, flood control, and recreation in a manner that is consistent with the City's Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan. The Corps, in collaboration with the City, may consider "locally preferred projects" as alternatives to include in the study. The Federal share of costs is capped at 65 percent.

Each Supervisor  
July 28, 2006  
Page 2

The language in the Senate bill differs somewhat from provisions in two identical Los Angeles River revitalization bills, S. 2667 (Boxer) and H.R. 5244 (Roybal-Allard), which were reported in the May 24, 2006 Washington, D.C. Update. These bills would authorize a combined total of \$79 million in appropriations for the Corps relating to the revitalization of the Los Angeles River. They would authorize the Corps, in cooperation with the City and appropriate Federal, State, regional, and local agencies, to prepare within three years a project-specific plan that is consistent with the City's Los Angeles River Revitalization Master Plan and consider a "locally preferred project" as an alternative to a measure in the Corps' plan.

The County's Department of Public Works identified important technical issues related to maintenance and liability not addressed in S. 2667 and H.R. 5244. The County's position on the bills is support if amended, and oppose unless amended to ensure that the Los Angeles River revitalization plan is consistent with the County-adopted Los Angeles River Master Plan, defines the Los Angeles River as the 32 miles of the Los Angeles River within the City, and clarifies liability and maintenance responsibilities and requirements. The Senate's WRDA reauthorization language is silent on these technical issues. The County met with City staff on July 18, 2006 to discuss possible amendments to the Los Angeles River revitalization legislation, particularly as it relates to project maintenance, liability, and funding.

We will continue to keep you advised.

DEJ:GK  
MAL:MT:LY:cc

c: All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist